



Research Support Fund Objectives Report 2023-2024

Report on Research Support Fund Objectives and Indicators March 2023- April 2024

In 2023-2024, Brock University allocated its Research Support Fund (RSF) funding in the following five areas:

Facilities (4.5%): RSF funds will be used to upgrade laboratory and other research space to meet researchers' urgent needs. A portion of these funds will support the ongoing maintenance of institutional websites that profile research accomplishments, build research partnerships and provide researchers with the forms, guidelines and other documents they need for their work.

Resources (5.1%): RSF funds will support the licensing of tools that accelerate the research process by integrating funding, collaborator discovery, and publishing opportunities (Pivot). These tools connect researchers to financial support by leveraging the most comprehensive global source of sponsored funding opportunities and provides scholarly profiles to match researchers with financial partners and collaborators. Additionally, licenses for a research survey instrument (Qualtrics) and MatLab will also be purchased to enable researchers across campus to collect critical data. The funds also support memberships to Innovate Niagara, Digital Research Alliance of Canada, the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, and the Conversation Canada.

Management and Administration (63%): RSF funds are a key component of the Research Enterprise's budget, which provides researchers access to research officers, accounting and other professional research staff who assist them with grant application preparation, facilitate support with institutional Honors, Prizes, Awards and Distinctions, provide guidance on Equity Diversity and Inclusion practices, and guide research impact and knowledge mobilization, and oversee their financial compliance and reporting.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation (8.4%): RSF funds will be used to support the operation of the Research Ethics Board (REB), the Animal Care Committee, Research Safety, and additional regulatory accreditations and certifications as required (e.g., Cannabis Licensing through CTLS).

Intellectual property and Commercialization (19%): RSF funds have allowed Brock University to meet rapidly expanding needs in the fields of intellectual property, patenting, technology transfer, and commercialization. Funding received in 2023-24 will support the salaries of staff in the Partnerships, Innovation and Intellectual Property Advancement team, including legal counsel who advises on IP management strategies. These staff build research partnerships between Brock researchers, industry and community groups and identify avenues for the advancement of new technologies.

Eligible Expenditure Category	Output (Investment or Expense of RSF Grant Funds)	Performance Objectives	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome	Reported Outcomes
<p>Research Facilities</p>	<p>4.5% of the RSF grant will be used to upgrade research space, support equipment operations and maintain a research website.</p>	<p>Improved sustainability and efficiency of research equipment.</p> <p>Update and maintenance of an institutional website for research communications and partnership building.</p>	<p>Number of research equipment supported.</p> <p>Number of visitors to the research services website.</p>	<p>Support for 5 major pieces of equipment.</p> <p>An increase of 10% in web traffic (internal and external).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2023-2024 RSF grant funding supported over 5 pieces of equipment plus numerous research space upgrades. • The internal Research Enterprise website is regularly updated to communicate funding opportunities effectively to Brock researchers. Alongside the website, the bi-weekly Brock Research Enterprise Alerts (BREA) e-bulletin provides current funding opportunities and news from the Research Enterprise. BREA's subscriber base has been steadily growing, with a 14% increase in subscribers. • There has been an approximately 20% increase on overall page views.

<p>Research Resources</p>	<p>5.1% of the RSF grant will support software licensing (namely, for funding/collaborator and publication databases (Pivot), the licensing of survey tool instruments (Qualtrics and a site license for MatLab), as well as memberships to Innovate Niagara, Digital Research Alliance of Canada, the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, and the Conversation Canada.</p>	<p>Enhanced support for researchers in finding external funding, collaborators, and publication opportunities with Pivot database, as well as through memberships in industry organizations.</p> <p>Sustained usage of Qualtrics software for research survey design and implementation.</p> <p>Maintenance of MatLab institutional license for use by researchers.</p>	<p>Number of users of Pivot, Qualtrics, and MatLab resources.</p> <p>Number of users of resources offered through memberships in industry organizations.</p>	<p>Sustained usage of Pivot funding database and Qualtrics survey tool.</p> <p>Sustained usage of the institutional license for MatLab.</p> <p>Continuing usage of resources offered through memberships in industry organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research clients from all faculties can search Pivot for funding opportunities. Auto-generated reports have been embedded in the site allowing researchers to find more opportunities readily. Pivot was utilized during the reporting period. • The Qualtrics subscription was utilized for survey creation by faculty, staff, and students. • Researchers have continued to make use of the MatLab license.
<p>Management & Administration of Institution's Research Enterprise</p>	<p>63% of the RSF grant will be used for the salary of research officers, accounting and other research support staff who provide core services to Brock researchers.</p>	<p>Improved support from research services staff in the preparation of grant applications, agreements, and post-award financial administration.</p>	<p>Number of applications to external granting programs.</p>	<p>5 – 10% increase in the number of applications to external agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSF funding has supported the research support staff, resulting in an 11% increase in tri-agency applications

<p>Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation</p>	<p>8.4% of the RSF grant will be used to support the operation of the Research Ethics Board (REB), the Animal Care Committee (ACC), Research Safety, and additional regulatory accreditations and certifications as required (e.g., Cannabis Licensing through CTLS).</p>	<p>On-going operations of the REB, ACC and research safety boards, and other accreditations.</p>	<p>Timely support of researchers using the services of the boards.</p> <p>Sustained compliance record and maintenance of existing accreditations for animal care and cannabis licensing.</p>	<p>Increased user satisfaction with board/office services.</p> <p>No breaches in compliance or change in accreditation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A satisfaction survey was not conducted in this year. • To date, there have been no breaches in compliance or change in accreditation with the Research Ethics Board (REB), Animal Care Committee (ACC), and Cannabis Licensing.
<p>Intellectual Property</p>	<p>19% of the RSF grant will be used to offset staff salaries in the Partnerships, Innovation and Intellectual Property Advancement team, including legal counsel who advises on IP management strategies.</p>	<p>Improved support to researchers seeking to advance innovations, commercialize technologies, or build research partnerships.</p>	<p>Client satisfaction as evidenced through client feedback.</p> <p>Number of research partnerships.</p>	<p>Increase in client satisfaction with services provided by the Partnerships, Innovation and Intellectual Property Advancement team.</p> <p>Increase in number of research partnerships with industry and community groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brock currently maintains approximately 15 patent families and the RSF helps to defray the costs of this maintenance. • Twenty-one partnerships were formalized through collaborative research agreements owing to a greater emphasis on cultivating new partnerships in alignment with Brock's Strategic Plan.